

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, June 27, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, June 27, 1840.

my dear sir, yours of the 17th instant is just received, read and I hasten to answer, that it is humiliating to think that a majority of democratic members in congress would permit themselves to be governed by a minority in the opposition—they ought like faithfull soldiers to unite and die on their post and pass the independent Treasury bill before one moves from his post. 1 You may assure them that if the[y] do not the denunciations of the democracy will be loud [ sic ] and strong all over the union—it will not be received as an excuse that the opposition members have seceded, when they have a constitution number to have a call of the house and to coerce the attendance of absent members—such a precedent would dissolve the government and the blame will be laid at their door. they ought to look to it and permit no leave of absence until

1 This bill passed each house and was signed by the President July 4, 1840.

class=MsoNormal>0091 67 this bill is passed upon—if the [y] do, it will be like a general on the lines of an enemy who gives his soldiers furlows until he becomes so weak, that the enemy sallies forth, defeats and destroys him—for will not a precedent that the minority rules, destroy our republican government. Let the majority look to it, sit it out, no man be absent and when the floor is not occupied, move that the committee rise and report the bill to the House and carry it; and then by the previous question pass the bill. if the opposi[tion] attempt to leave the House to prevent a quorum, let there be a call of the House and by

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the seargeant at arms coerce their attendance. It is no time for the democracy to use delicacy or usual comity to those who have combined to destroy our government nor will the democracy of the country excuse them on such plea, when the great constitution principles are thus attempted to be trodden down by such a reckless faction.

The Democratic members are expected to sit like brave men who hold the safety and perpetuity of our republi[can] system in their hands and who are relied on to die at their posts before they will deliver up the ship to the enemy. The opposition well know that the passage of this bill, now , puts an end to their national Bank. This is the struggle, and the whole republicans in congress ought to die at their posts or pass the bill. they have a majority sufficient to coerce the attendance of the members, and if the do not the fault is theirs, and they ought, under existence circumstances, to be shot as deserters from their post on the lines of the enemy.?What pair off. Under the circumstance you detail, rather die first. These are my sentiments and I think are, and at least ought to be, the sentiments and feelings of every democratic member in the House—you may assure them that it is the feelings and sentiments of their constituents. But I must close. I am labouring under great debility from a return of the Hemmorhage. . . .